

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated 30 September 2003

REMARKS/AGRUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-15 are canceled, without prejudice by this response.

Claims 1-15 are canceled so that the remaining claims 16-21 are limited to a group of claims which in the prior application the Examiner has posited to be a different invention.

The filing of the divisional application of which this amendment is part include photocopies of a Petition under 37 CFR § 1.102(c) in the prior application for accelerated advancing of prosecution, and of the decision paper by the Director of Technology Center 17 according such status. This decision included the claims 5-9 remaining herein, and it is submitted that this application should also be accorded special status.

Early consideration, including a favorable determination to accord the present application special status with prosecution advanced out of turn for examination, is respectfully requested.

Title: Chromate-Free Method for Surface
Etching of Titanium

Attorney Docket No. 84843

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The Examiner is invited to telephone Michael F. Oglo,
Attorney for Applicant, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the
Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the
prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL

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